

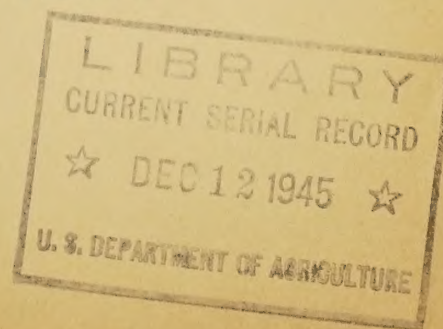
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EXTENSION WORK AMONG NEGROES in the SOUTH 1944 - 1945

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Foreword

This report deals with the accomplishments of Negro farm families in 15 Southern States. Statistics and examples taken from State annual reports give an answer to the question, "Was the Negro farm family on the job in 1944-45?"

No attempt is made to evaluate the work in any particular State. The discussion deals, rather, with the agricultural program as a whole in the States where Negro personnel is employed, each State making a contribution in its own way.

The year 1944 found the Extension Service with the largest number of Negro agents, men and women, in its history. This may be seen in the summary of Negro personnel and statistical data at the end of this report. The personnel was not only the largest yet, but on the whole the best trained.

Although the war had made serious inroads on manpower everywhere, the Extension Service lost only a few of its Negro agents to Selective Service. Seemingly the local boards judged that the Negro extension agents were filling an essential wartime job, so rarely did the number drafted into military service exceed two or three to a State.

In the early part of 1944, under the War Food Administration, funds were allocated to the Extension Service to be made available to the States for employing agents to assist in food production and preservation. These additional Negro men and women agents helped greatly in reaching the farm people in the program for producing food to the limit and conserving all possible. At one time during the height of the summer season 281 Negro food assistants were working in the area covered by this report. State extension officials and the public seemed highly pleased with the results accomplished by these emergency workers who joined the ranks of the regular farm and home agents.

Extension workers and neighborhood leaders were given special training for carrying on the war food production and conservation program. Each year new high goals were set and new records were reached in food produced and saved.

State directors and their staffs organized and trained extension personnel at State colleges and in districts, and district supervisors trained those in the counties. County workers trained neighborhood and community leaders. By the end of 1944 this trained group was handling the difficult problems caused by the manpower shortage with remarkable efficiency.

Meeting the food emergency caused by the war was the greatest responsibility every placed on the Extension Service. By 1944, food, feed, and fiber needs were at an all-time high mark. Approximately 11 million men and women were in military service. The needs of the home front, in addition to those of lend-lease and liberated territories, constantly added to the demand for larger and larger production and processing of food.

Thought also had to be given to the days when the war would be over both in Europe and the Pacific. Then what? The Extension Service, as an educational

agency, had the responsibility of preparing farm people for the time when war needs would give way to the requirements of a period of reconversion. As in the past, Extension administrators used judgment and vision. The postwar program received much consideration, and plans were made both by State and Federal officials during 1944. The outcome will have a vital effect on the future status of Negroes engaged in agriculture in the States with a large rural Negro population.

A L A B A M A

There was an increase of 19 percent in days devoted by home agents and 29 percent by farm agents to the production of family supplies in Alabama in 1944.

The live-at-home program for the State, as conducted by Negro extension workers has been improved. Its objective is not merely sufficient food production for the immediate family needs, but production to the extent of having farm products to sell, in order to raise the standard of living at home.

Good farm management is tied up in the farm program, as well as soil improvement, home improvement, livestock improvement, field crops, and land use planning. Among field crops, corn received special attention during the year. A corn contest was conducted in 74 communities of the State, with a total acreage of 148 and a yield of 2,915 bushels of corn. Some of the contestants reported a yield of more than 60 bushels an acre, but the local average yield was 24 bushels an acre.

Oats, peanuts, sweetpotatoes, and pastures occupied important places in the farm plans. Home gardens, truck crops, orchards, and small fruit were accounted for in impressive figures. Total yields were high, and reports show a good distribution of Negro farm families producing these valuable food crops.

These farmers of Alabama received substantial sums of money for their farm products. Yet they were making a patriotic contribution by cooperating in producing what they could to meet the wartime food demands.

In 33 counties there were 44,576 home gardens in rural areas and 13,954 home gardens in cities and in town and urban communities. One home agent lamented that only 85 percent of the people in her county reported sufficient vegetables grown in their gardens for family needs. Home agents in 35 counties accounted for 31,847 families receiving assistance in saving food by approved methods. The total value of food products canned and otherwise preserved by these 31,847 families was estimated at \$2,505,711.

Dairying and dairy products showed a fine upward trend in the State. Home agents in 18 counties accounted for 2,821 farm women selling \$819,220.00 worth of dairy products during the year. In addition, 1,300 farm families reported having sold milk to commercial plants.

Poultry and eggs supplied nutritious food for the families and provided a surplus to sell. The value of poultry and eggs eaten by farm families was estimated at \$2,773,287. The surplus sold at \$209,534.

One farmer reported his receipts for the year as follows: \$4,950 for collards \$3,000 for okra, \$3,000 for corn, \$300 for squash, \$285 for lima beans, and \$425 for snap beans. He also produced 60 bales of cotton on 60 acres and grew 1,000 bushels of corn on 40 acres. This man evidently has reached the advanced class of live-at-home farmers.

A R K A N S A S

The Negro farmers of Arkansas regeared their already active live-at-home program to meet the stepped-up emergency need in the Food-for-Victory program. To meet this need, 7,354 neighborhood leaders and 9,467 volunteer leaders were enlisted for adult work--3,143 men and 6,324 women. There were 15,000 families enrolled in the live-at-home program, which included a year-round garden, truck crops, sweet and Irish potatoes, molasses, milk, meat, eggs, home orchards, grain, hay, succulents, and a good pasture.

Reports show that 34,625 farm families were influenced by extension workers and local leaders. The value of farm products bought and sold was reported to be \$769,662.

Farm women.--Results of the work of volunteer leaders or committeemen show that an effort was made to reach every Negro farm family possible in the State. There were 39,009 rural home gardens and 24,139 urban gardens and 11,315 families reporting on food preservation.

Among the adults, 2,888,297 quarts of fruits and vegetables were canned. Women's clubs bought \$11,888,97 worth of war bonds and stamps.

4-H Clubs.---Under the slogan "Feed a Fighter," 23,848 boys and girls set for themselves ambitious goals that were to a large measure reached. Their production was as follows:

Pork	472,414	pounds
Beef	83,651	pounds
Sheep	9,300	pounds
Poultry	23,320	pounds
Milk	15,378	gallons
Eggs	383,999	dozen
Irish potatoes	33,761	bushels
Sweet potatoes	73,218	bushels
Peanuts	29,410	bushels
Soybeans	1,539 $\frac{1}{2}$	bushels
Canned foods	182,854	quarts

The 4-H Club members accounted for \$14,646.60 worth of war bonds and stamps, bought and sold. They collected 227,948 pounds of metal, paper, and other materials and turned it in as salvage.

One of the high lights of farm activities in the State during 1944 was the sweepstakes prize of \$250 won by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bailey, of Route 1, Procter. This was in the landowner division of the live-at-home competition sponsored annually by the Commercial Appeal and chamber of commerce of Memphis, Tenn. The Baileys own a 60-acre farm in Crittenden County.

FLORIDA

Negro farmers and their families took advantage of living in this land of summertime and made their contribution to the efforts of food production for the year by engaging in diversified farming in keeping with the climate of the State and the demands of the market. The supervising agent was somewhat general in his report rather than specific. Farmers largely grew corn, peanuts, sugarcane, and sweetpotatoes. Victory gardens, swine, beef cattle, poultry, and dairying were also important.

Sugarcane and sweetpotatoes now have a prominent place on the program of some of the Negro farmers in Florida. Sugarcane is grown both for making sirup and for the local and even northern markets for chewing purposes. One farmer in Hamilton County sold 21,000 stalks at $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents each for chewing. Three other farmers each sold 12,000 stalks at 5 cents for the same purpose.

The demand for sweetpotatoes is good. The market for both plants and commercial potatoes is encouraging. The improved No. 1 Puerto Rican variety is quite popular. Negro farmers in Columbia County planted more than 400 acres of sweetpotatoes--250 in the Louisiana strain.

The production of both sugarcane and sweetpotatoes is stimulated by a crop production demonstration that is now in its seventh year of operation. This organization has as its objective the best varieties and cultural methods for producing these crops and meeting market requirements.

Farm women.--The farm women and girls of the State were very thrifty during the past 12 months. There were 7,969 gardens grown; 1,261 families planted fruit trees; and 4,097 berry plants were planted. Club members owned 150,473 chickens; 248,408 dozens of eggs were produced and records kept by 790 families. Club members added 175 milk cows, bringing the total to 2,123 family cows owned by club members.

Food conservation results included the following:

- 72,735 containers of vegetables canned.
- 55,650 containers of fruits canned.
- 19,958 containers of meat canned.
- 1,800 gallons of meat brined.
- 159,166 pounds of meat cured.
- 3,470 pounds of meat put in cold storage.
- 556,668 pounds of sausage made.
- 18,116 pounds of lard made.
- 22,188 pounds of fish smoked.

In addition, fruit was cured and pickles and relishes were made in large quantities. Waste fats were accounted for by the making of 2,295 pounds of soap by club women and girls.

Food products sold included:

Canned products.....	\$ 958
Fresh vegetables.....	4,778
Fresh fruits.....	2,429
Poultry products.....	28,645
Eggs.....	18,785

Sales were also made of milk, butter, rugs, quilts, spreads, crafts, and other articles. There were 233 women and girls who increased their income through home marketing.

War bonds bought by 107 home demonstration clubs amounted to \$12,200. Forty-seven 4-H Clubs bought \$2,225 worth of war bonds and stamps. Home demonstration council members purchased \$300 worth of bonds.

G E O R G I A

Farm women and 4-H Club girls.--The Negro women and girls of Georgia took their responsibility in the farm and home program seriously and rolled up results that speak for themselves.

There were 11,505 women and 21,150 girls working in organized clubs in the State during the year. Reports show teamwork among leaders, women, and girls. The attendance at method demonstrations numbered 114,919; 33,534 gardens were cultivated; 2,897,082 containers of food products were conserved by women and 1,448,541 by 4-H Club girls, making a total of 4,345,623 for the State.

Sales of home-industry products by clubwomen during the year amounted to \$87,087.68 and by 4-H Club girls, \$33,091.25. The supervising agent estimated the total savings in the State, in sales by these women and girls, to be \$868,124.30. To obtain these results, definite home demonstration objectives were set up.

The food and feed program took in home gardening, poultry, dairying, bee culture, swine, and other livestock. Total sales made from these by women and girls were \$120,178.93, an increase of \$37,952.70 over the sales made in 1943.

The farm families of Georgia accounted for the purchase of \$153,933.75 in war bonds and stamps and raised \$914.07 in drives for the Red Cross.

K E N T U C K Y

It would be hard to find a better description of the activities of Negro farm people of Kentucky than the following word-picture from the supervising agent:

"County agents and specialists of the State experiment station, meeting with committees of farm men and women from extension communities in each county, set up programs for both adult farmers and 4-H Club members. These revised programs were stripped of all unnecessary expense of labor, capital, or guesswork and streamlined to operate within the individual farmer's resources whether on a large acreage or where a rural family has only 1 or more acres. The object was to raise the standard of living of each family and thereby stabilize our farm population.

"Under the guidance of the county and home agents farm families have again broken all previous records of production of food and other crops vital to our war effort. In this accomplishment there has been perfect teamwork between the farmer and all extension agencies."

The State of Kentucky is noted for growing tobacco. Negro farmers grew their share of this valuable crop in 1944. One farmer who operates a 70-acre farm under a diversified system of rotation had 10 acres of burley tobacco, with an estimated yield of 1,500 pounds an acre. This man purchased \$10,000 worth of war bonds. Even with tobacco as the principal crop in the State, farmers included in their farm activities food crops and livestock. Their objective program was:

1. A year-round garden to provide a supply of fresh vegetables and to have ample vegetables for canning, drying, and storing.
2. Supply of poultry and eggs for home use.
3. Hogs for home supply of pork and pork products.
4. Cows to provide adequate supply of milk and dairy products for home use.
5. Cereal grains for feed for family and livestock.
6. Grasses and legumes for pasture, hog, and soil improvement.
7. Tobacco for cash crop, incidental farm expenditures, and family maintenance.
8. Surplus of poultry and dairy products and hogs to be sold to aid in meeting war production goals.

In carrying out these objectives, Negro farmers grew 1,600 acres of hybrid corn and thus added to their food and feed supply in quantity over the ordinary open-pollinated seed corn method. One agent reported the demonstration of hybrid corn under his supervision yielded 23 bushels an acre over the old method.

L O U I S I A N A

The Negro farm families of Louisiana faced their responsibility in 1944 with 60 percent less farm labor than was available in 1943 and with less new farm

machinery. There was a shortage of feed, seed, and in some sections, less fertilizer and insecticides, yet they produced 5 percent more crops, live-stock, and livestock products than in 1942.

The farmers of Louisiana maintained a high acreage of rice, sugarcane, and cotton. They increased their acreage of Irish potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and peanuts. They also produced more beef, pork, and milk. They kept 500,000 more hens than in 1943.

Home demonstration clubwomen and 4-H Club girls.--There were 8,006 families that participated in and met the canning budget; 7,910 families that produced and preserved home food according to food supply budget. There were 560 victory gardens. The women and girls did their part and stressed food production and preservation. Food preservation by adults was as follows:

	<u>Fruits</u>	<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Meat and fish</u>
Quarts canned.....	646,831	1,092,640	154,814
Gallons brined.....	32	1,802	8,500
Pounds dried.....	13,892	53,449	
Pounds cured.....	11,197	45,427	491,877
Pounds stored.....	740	568,122	52,906
Pounds frozen.....	1,211	2,726	22,960

The 4-H Club girls were also busy in carrying on their part of the food obligation and accomplishments were as follows:

	<u>Fruits</u>	<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Meat and fish</u>
Quarts canned.....	85,427	142,432	19,925
Gallons brined.....	20	380	175
Pounds dried.....	2,890	5,342	
Pounds cured.....		800	
Pounds stored.....	239	69,812	1,029
Pounds frozen.....	150	100	400

These groups were stimulated by two slogans, "Continue To Raise Food To Win the War" and "Hungry Men Can't Fight."

M A R Y L A N D

The Negro farm families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland worked under the "Food for Freedom" project. These families had larger gardens than in 1943, more cows and chickens; and produced 214,000 pounds of meat. Farmers increased their swine production by cutting cholera losses to a new low record.

For the year there were 1,290 4-H Club members enrolled and participating in farm activities. They salvaged 214,000 pounds of paper. In four counties there was an increase of 509 gardens among club members.

In southern Maryland, production and food preservation goals were met through efficient management of available labor and better feeding of farm families. Livestock also received more attention. A more liberal supply of home-grown feed was provided for livestock. Hybrid corn planting made a considerable gain in 1944 among Negro farmers. Not only were more crops grown but in many instances better care was taken of what was produced. As an illustration, one farmer stored and saved 250 bushels of sweetpotatoes and 150 bushels of Irish potatoes. He treated the plants and seed and used better storage methods.

Women and girls.--The Negro clubwomen and 4-H Club girls of Maryland realized they had to do most of the farm work because so many of the men and older boys had been called to military service and defense industries. The women and girls not only engaged in growing home gardens but in other farm activities, including production and preservation.

Women and girls accounted for the purchase of \$12,000 in war bonds and stamps, contributed \$512 to the Red Cross, and sent 100 boxes of cookies to servicemen.

In 4 counties, 722 women members in 25 home demonstration clubs and 426 girls in 214 4-H clubs achieved the following results from their projects:

Adults

Fruit.....	31,256	quarts
Vegetables.....	58,513	quarts
Meat and fish.....	29,257	quarts
Dried fruit.....	989	pounds
Dried vegetables.....	1,011	pounds
Dried meat and fish.....	762	pounds
Cured meat.....	27,504	pounds

Juniors

Meals planned.....	7,160	
Meals served.....	7,160	
Food canned.....	22,950	quarts

M I S S I S S I P P I

The program for the State was built around the immediate needs of the farmers and was planned as a contribution to the war effort.

Negro agents guided farm families throughout the year in making the program a success. It was reported that 45,933 farmers made some change in their farming practices; 62,177 had gardens in the spring, and of this number, 38,111 had vegetables of more than one variety throughout the winter; 11,396 carried demonstrations in reforestation, fire control, thinning, and timber appraisals; 35,372 families were assisted in canning according to the budget; and 21,604 were assisted in preventing disease. In addition, a

health association was organized for the purpose of eradicating venereal disease. It was composed of all leaders and reached 36,000 farm families through its educational program.

A program of good farm management was carried to almost every farmer who had demonstrations of any kind, so that production might be put on an economic basis. There were 14,225 farm families applying strict farm-management principles to their production and conservation program.

Livestock production by Negro farmers showed a notable increase. In most instances, demonstrations were conducted with small producers to encourage livestock production as a side line for increasing income and providing a better balanced diet. Twenty-seven county agents reported that \$302,366.63 had been received through the sale of milk and butter from farms; 15 agents reported \$110,150.84 received from the sale of livestock and \$105,117 from poultry and eggs. Many of the livestock sales were made at district livestock shows when Negro farmers had an opportunity to show their fat calves.

In Claiborne County the Negro county agent arranged for colored farmers to show their livestock along with the white farmers. This program had been in progress in a small way for 4 years. In 1944, there was a great increase in the production and feeding of fat cattle for sale. At the show, 917 animals were exhibited and \$22,785.00 worth of cattle was sold. Records indicate a 50 percent improvement over 1943, and the outlook for 1945 is even better.

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

It is apparent that North Carolina, largely a rural State, has an important farm program. Approximately one-half of the Negro population in the State lives in rural areas and derives a living from the soil.

During 1944, the farmers were progressing with the food program. This program included not only field crops and gardens but further expansion of the number of poultry raised and number of family milk cows. During the year, 3,481 Negro farmers were assisted by the Negro extension agents in selling and purchasing \$100,544 worth of poultry and egg products.

Outstanding progress was made by Negro farmers in the State within the past 2 years by increasing the number of high-grade heifers, milk cows, and purebred dairy bulls. They bought 2,107 heifers and cows at a cost of \$106,000. The most important fact in this work was that 47 percent of these dairy cattle went on farms where there was not a cow.

Reports show that there were a larger number of Negro farmers growing hogs, with more pigs farrowed and more pigs saved at farrowing time, which meant more meat for home use.

Farm families worked as a unit on production of food. They not only supplied vegetables for family use and local needs but in some localities took advantage of established milk routes. In Orange and Alamance Counties, 30 Negro farmers sold 32,172 gallons of milk to a local dairy and made approximately \$11,592.

Clubwomen and 4-H Club girls.--During the year, 19,408 farm women were assisted with their food preservation problems. These clubwomen canned 4,327,053 quarts of fruits and vegetables. In addition to their canning, they brined, dried, cured, and stored a substantial amount of fruits and vegetables.

Among the 4-H group, 5,127 club girls canned 207,004 quarts of fruits and vegetables. As further evidence of the teamwork of farm families that include boys and girls, in 436 organized clubs in the State there was an enrollment of 28,861 members. They conducted and completed 41,684 different farm and home projects. Those enrolled in corn projects cultivated 2,540 acres. They made an average yield of 37 bushels an acre -- 17 bushels more than the State average.

These boys and girls produced the following:

279,695 dozens of eggs.
141,335 gallons of milk,
36,399 pounds of beef.
369,699 pounds of pork.

According to records these young people bought \$164,832 worth of war bonds and stamps and sold \$25,299 worth to their neighbors. They collected 500,264 pounds of scrap iron, 26,956 pounds of rubber, and 2,030 pounds of fats and grease.

Curb Markets.--Negro farm families rendered patriotic service in striving to meet the increasing demand for farm products and to meet market convenience by establishing several curb markets in the State. Farmers also benefited financially in raising their standard of living and having money to invest in war bonds and stamps.

Supervising agents reported that 75 families sold \$16,044.54 worth of fruits, vegetables, handicraft, meats, home bakery products, dairy, poultry, and canned products to their city neighbors on curb markets. One of these curb markets, in 12 selling hours, sold \$1,397.32 worth of produce, or an average of \$1.16 a minute during the operation of the market.

O K L A H O M A

The Victory Food Program was the slogan of the men, women, and 4-H Club boys and girls of Oklahoma for 1944. As a means of being efficient, the extension workers and voluntary leaders agreed upon certain methods and procedures. Being well fed and comfortably housed were essentials in the program.

There were 195 home demonstration clubs with a membership of 3,985 women. Through the leadership of these clubs, 7,899 families were influenced and assisted in food production and preservation. There were 4,861 voluntary leaders working with Negro extension agents in 14 counties of Oklahoma.

Included in the Victory food goals for the State were gardens, canning vegetables, drying fruits and vegetables, canning and curing meats, improved poultry flocks, increased egg production, and correct butchering of farm animals.

The reports show that 4,389 families improved their diet, 3,154 studied food preparation, and 5,739 improved food supply by making changes in home food production. This production included vegetables, fruits, meats, milk, poultry, and eggs. The activities of these farm people pointed toward a better permanent farm program. The goals set up were:

1. A garden ample in size for the family on each farm and a garden plot for every other family wherever possible.
2. A variety of vegetables.
3. A year-round garden.
4. A surplus of vegetables for storage.
5. Better storage facilities.

The following record indicates the progress made toward obtaining these goals:

289,295 quarts of fruit canned.
730,381 quarts of vegetables canned.
160,972 quarts of meats and fish canned.
20,592 pounds of fruits dried.
68,290 pounds of vegetables dried.
920,374 pounds of meat and fish cured.
2,500 pounds of fruits, 95,287 pounds of vegetables,
and 72,500 pounds of meat and fish were stored.
6,352 pounds of meat and fish were frozen.

There were 229 4-H Clubs, with 5,914 members--3,136 girls and 2,778 boys. They participated in a program that compared favorably with the accomplishments of the adults. There were 2,136 boys and girls enrolled in victory gardens.

S O U T H C A R O L I N A

The farm men and boys who were left on the farms in South Carolina put the major part of their farming time on the growing of cotton, tobacco, corn, wheat, and sweetpotatoes and growing improved beef cattle as well as hay crops and pastures.

Cotton and corn crop contests were conducted on a State-wide basis. In the cotton contest, 6 farmers in the 5-acre contest grew 46,450 pounds of seed cotton and 16,040 pounds of lint valued at \$4,152.50. In the corn contest 18 farmers on 90 acres grew 3,225 bushels of corn, averaging 36 bushels per acre. The State average is 12 bushels per acre.

There were 2,425 farmers who participated in growing improved sweetpotatoes. Three farmers in Anderson County grew 678 bushels on 4 acres, which was valued at \$1,434.50

Six farmers fattened 68 beef calves that were valued at \$8,442.42. Six farmers keeping 49 cows had a total monthly income of \$420 from the sale of milk to a nearby milk plant.

To help in meeting the feed demands, 9 farmers in Chester County grew 284 tons of lespedeza hay.

Projects were completed by 4,709 4-H Club boys. Pigs, calves, poultry, garden, potato, corn, peanuts, tobacco, and miscellaneous activities were included. The total value of these projects was \$262,344.72.

The Triple-E's, Education, Energy, Effort, were in operation by the farm women and girls of South Carolina in 1944. The home agents and voluntary leaders worked with 9,584 clubwomen and 8,077 4-H Club girls who gave a good account of themselves in producing and conserving food for the home front and the market. Fighting furiously to produce more than the 75 percent of food and feed needed in South Carolina, a goal set up a year prior to our entering World War II, these valiant women extended their efforts into several theaters of activity and achieved telling results. Enrolled in home gardens were 16,387 rural families and 3,138 urban families. Their program included about everything that could be grown on a southern farm. Mrs. Ellen Reed is reported to have grown on half an acre, enough rice to supply her family for 12 months. Caesar Small produced 17 bushels of rice. In Georgetown County, 314 families grew rice. The clubwomen in the same county, under the guidance of their home agent, ordered 112,000 improved Porto Rican sweetpotato plants in the spring for their potato projects.

Fourteen enterprising women of Larsberry and Savannah Grove, in Florence County, supplied their home needs in fresh and canned fruits and vegetables and sold \$1,984.25 worth of vegetables from door to door. These consisted of potatoes, turnips, peas, cabbage, tomatoes, garden peas, collards, and butter beans.

In poultry and eggs, 3,872 farm women sold \$92,469.21 worth, and 3,653 4-H Club girls raised 88,851 birds for home use and sale. In dairy projects, these clubwomen received \$32,423.61 from the sale of demonstrations in how to handle milk properly.

The clubwomen conserved the following:

- 397,227 quarts of fruits.
- 531,192 quarts of vegetables.
- 40,121 quarts of meat and fish.
- 87 gallons of brined fruit.
- 6,749 gallons of brined vegetables.

Several thousand pounds of cured, stored, and frozen fruits, vegetables, meats, and fish.

The 4-H Club girls' record was equally as important. The State total sales by the clubwomen and girls, from records turned in by home agents and voluntary leaders, show that through general sales, dairy products, poultry and eggs, fruits, and home products, the sum of \$118,811.73 was realized. These same women invested \$45,300 in war bonds.

T E N N E S S E E

The Food Supply Program conducted in Tennessee for the fifth year proved to be a stimulant to Negro farm families of the State. This program was launched by Governor Prentice Cooper several years ago and its effectiveness during 1944 is shown in results obtained by farm men, women, boys and girls.

In Montgomery County, 800 Negro farm families enrolled in the Food Supply Program produced more than 75 percent of their home supply of essential foods. The estimated value of the food they produced was more than \$200,000.

Among the 20,395 Negro families enrolled in the Food Supply Program in 1944 in the State, 2,238 farm families were participating for the first time. Ninety-five percent of these also carried out soil-conservation practices.

4-H Club boys.--The 7,495 boys enrolled in 4-H Club work carried projects in growing corn, potatoes (Irish and sweet), home gardens, poultry, and swine. There were 2,542 boys and girls who completed their projects in the Victory Pig Club.

Ralph Pinkerston, of Cordova, Shelby County, exhibited his pig at the Memphis show and carried off the champion honors. His pig weighed 236 pounds and sold for \$1 a pound, a total of \$236.

Clubwomen and 4-H Club girls.--Adult organizations, consisting of 199 women's clubs, included in their activities, home production of family food, food preservation and storage, food selection and preparation, collecting salvage, home equipment repair project, steam-pressure cooker clinic, war bond purchasing, victory committee women, nutrition and health.

Enrollment of families in projects was as follows:

- 4,918 in home production food supply.
- 4,400 in food preservation.
- 3,812 in food preparation.
- 3,358 in poultry raising.

Women in seven counties sponsored the sale and purchased by December 1, 1944, \$115,606 in war bonds and stamps.

As a part of their program, 4-H Club girls placed 30,000 chicks; canned 34,229 quarts of fruits and 35,937 quarts of vegetables, and carried on many other activities.

T E X A S

The farmers of Texas looked upon their responsibilities in wartime activities as "a ringing challenge to every American farmer whether he be engaged on the battle front or on the home front."

The Negro farmers were fortunate in having both good leadership and a large personnel of Negro extension agents, in fact, the largest in the Nation serving Negro farmers. The population of Negro farmers in Texas is located mainly in the eastern part of the State. This area is divided into three districts served by Negro extension workers.

The production by Negro farmers for the year of 1944 was large and diversified. Again the size of accomplishments can best be realized by presentation of figures representing production and money value, with the number of people participating. To say a big, successful job was done by these farmers would fail to describe the real meaning of what was done by the men, women, and 4-H Club boys and girls of Texas.

There were 11,164 farm homes participating in the agricultural program of the State, aided by 21,173 visits from agricultural agents for the year 1944. Attending the meetings were 34,066 adults and 17,338 youths to get first-hand information on how to do best the agricultural job expected of them.

The farming activities were in the production of corn, cotton, cereal crops, fruits, potatoes, and vegetables. Agents reported 53,333 home gardens which played an important part in the family program. In one county alone, Negro farmers produced 15,626 pounds of pork. There were 8,212 farmers who participated in improved methods of feeding and handling chickens.

In one community three farmers fed 275 beef cattle, grazing on 650 acres of pasture, finishing the cattle off on grain and supplement feed for 9 months, and sold these animals on the market for \$35,750. Many farmers not in the marketing business raised at least one beef animal for home use.

Marketing.--Through 90 cooperative enterprises, 1,118 members made sales of farm products and purchases of supplies and general merchandise to the amount of \$86,932. There were 17,539 noncooperative members marketing and distributing products, and their sales amounted to \$1,845,023. In 11 cooperatives 5,755 families, who were not members were assisted in the purchase and sales of \$1,082,202 worth of poultry products.

Food Conservation.--The following paragraph from the State report gives statistics on food conserved by the 58,422 families assisted by Negro home agents of the State:

"During 1944 adults in 59 counties canned 1,382,767 quarts of fruit and 1,929,417 quarts of vegetables. In 49 counties adults canned 294,037 quarts of meats and fish. In 9 counties adults brined 9,231 gallons of fruit; in 44 counties adults brined 53,688 gallons of vegetables; and in 5 counties adults brined 8,843 gallons of fish and meats. Forty counties dried 59,381 pounds of fruit, 45 counties dried 228,241 pounds of vegetables, and 2 counties dried 64,195 pounds of meat and fish. Four counties cured 46,900 pounds of vegetables, and 45 counties cured 2,847,655 pounds of meats and fish. In one district where the supervisory agent worked with adults in 10 counties, 34,084 pounds of fruit was stored. In 40 counties, 1,654,412 pounds of vegetables was stored, and in 10 counties

34,554 pounds of meats and fish was stored. The adults in four counties froze 4,712 pounds of fruit and 5,276 pounds of vegetables. Adults in 9 counties froze 12,174 pounds of meats and fish."

There were 8,088 4-H Club members who completed their projects out of a total enrollment of 10,609 for the year. These club members had a gross income of \$20,709 from the marketing of swine, cattle, dairy products, poultry, eggs, and field crops, and from farm labor.

V I R G I N I A

Food production and preservation through organized effort made up a large part of Virginia's contribution to the war effort. There were fewer men and women engaged in farming in the State, but the production on the farms still in operation was either increased or previous production was maintained.

The supervising home agent, commenting on the farm labor situation, said, "As the war has gone on from year to year more young people have left the farms to enter military service, older women and men have taken jobs bearing on war needs, and it has not slowed production. Old men who had retired to the chimney corner came out of retirement because their sons and grandsons were in the service, and produced more food than ever before."

There were 16,000 farm families cooperating through organization in 28 counties. They raised vegetable gardens, poultry, hogs, had milk cows, and grew hay and grain, together with improved pastures, to make the farm operations profitable. The 2,584 local leaders worked with the Negro extension agents in these organizations. Reports show that 8,927 families canned 423,022 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats; dried 32,241 pounds of fruits and vegetables; and stored 380,050 pounds of meat. These farmers, stimulated by their leaders, purchased \$50,000 worth of war bonds.

4-H Club work.---There were 9,064 Negro members in 302 Clubs in Virginia in 1944. Like those of adults, their activities were in food production and preservation. The 837 club members enrolled in corn demonstration produced 34,958 bushels on 793 acres. Club members had gardens with a total acreage of 864 and grew vegetables to the net value of \$30,113. There were 4,602 club members enrolled in growing corn, cotton, gardens, market gardens, potatoes, peanuts, and tobacco. They cultivated 2,249 acres and reported a cash income of \$185,436. The 2,843 club members engaged in work with livestock had 92,985 animals valued at \$115,040.

W E S T V I R G I N I A

In the great mining and industrial State of West Virginia where there are only 671 nonwhite farm operators, a program of trained leadership is hard at work with both urban and nonurban families. There were 3,633 families who participated in food preservation; 1,760 nonfarm families were influenced by agricultural practices; 2,449 such families were influenced to adopt improved practices by the home demonstration agents.

City people, with little available land, went in for kitchen gardens even if only enough land was available to grow such vegetables as tomatoes, lettuce, onions, and a few greens. Canning centers were operated for school and community food preservation. An increased number of pressure cookers came into use.

In 78 communities crop production received a boost. More corn, legumes, pastures, potatoes, fruits and other crops were produced. This was made possible by lining the soil, more and better fertilizing practices, and better cultivation. Families on family-size farm units kept one or two milk cows; 456 more animals were added to the farm animal unit. Many more hogs were saved because Negro families had their hogs treated or inoculated for the first time.

4-H Club members.--The Negro boys and girls in West Virginia gave a good account of themselves on the home front. Of the members, 945 had gardens; 5,470 quarts of fruit was conserved; 2,222 pounds of meat cured; 467 club members had poultry projects; 724 participated in food selection and preparation; and 767 girls had victory clothing projects. Some of the members of the wildlife club raised rabbits to help supply meat for the home.

Negro Personnel and Statistical Data

ALABAMA

	Number
State agent.....	1
District farm agents.....	1
District home agents.....	1
4-H Club agents.....	2
Specialists.....	2
County agents.....	37
Home agents.....	36
Emergency agents (men).....	4
Emergency agents (women).....	4
Negro rural population.....	667,332
Negro farm operators.....	73,338
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	40
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	37,641 (1944)

ARKANSAS

	Number
District farm agents.....	1
District home agents.....	1
Movable-school agents.....	2
County agents.....	11
Home agents.....	16
Emergency agents (men).....	5
Emergency agents (women).....	6
Negro rural population.....	377,735
Negro farm operators.....	57,011
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	29
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	29,975 (1944)

FLORIDA

	<u>Number</u>
District farm agents.....	1
District home agents.....	1
County agents.....	10
Home agents.....	10
Emergency agents (men).....	1
Emergency agents (women).....	1
Negro rural population.....	227,151
Negro farm operators.....	9,731
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	6
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	7,685 (1944)

GEORGIA

	<u>Number</u>
State agent.....	1
District home agents.....	1
4-H Club agents.....	2
County agents.....	27
Home agents.....	26
Negro rural population.....	705,171
Negro farm operators.....	59,127
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	52
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	33,915 (1944)

KENTUCKY

	<u>Number</u>
District farm agents.....	1
County agents.....	4
Home agents.....	2
Emergency agents (women).....	3
Negro rural population.....	97,259
Negro farm operators.....	5,546
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	3,228 (1944)

LOUISIANA

	<u>Number</u>
State agent.....	1
District home agent.....	1
County agents.....	15
Home agents.....	11
Emergency agents (men).....	3
Emergency agents (women).....	4
Negro rural population.....	535,208
Negro farm operators.....	59,556
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	35
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	13,881

MARYLAND

	<u>Number</u>
District farm agent.....	1
County agents.....	3
Home agents.....	4
Emergency agents (men).....	6
County clerks.....	2
Negro rural population.....	650,183
Negro farm operators.....	4,049
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	2,393 (1943)

MISSISSIPPI

	<u>Number</u>
District farm agent.....	1
District home agent.....	1
4-H Club agents.....	2
County agents.....	30
Home agents.....	42
Emergency agents (men).....	29
Emergency agents (women).....	29
County clerks.....	6
Negro rural population.....	896,550
Negro farm operators.....	159,256
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	67
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	49,633

NORTH CAROLINA

	<u>Number</u>
State agent-4-H Club specialist.....	1
District farm agents.....	2
District home agent.....	1
County agents.....	39
Home agents.....	26
Emergency supervisor (man).....	1
Emergency supervisor (woman).....	1
Emergency agents (men).....	5
Emergency agents (women).....	12
Negro rural population.....	681,935
Negro farm operators.....	57,428
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	46
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	28,555 (1944)
County clerks.....	32

OKLAHOMA

	<u>Number</u>
State agent.....	1
District home agent.....	1
County agents.....	9
Home agents.....	8
Emergency agents (men).....	3
Emergency agents (women).....	6
County clerks.....	13
Negro rural population.....	89,153
Negro farm operators.....	8,987
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	9
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	5,914 (1944)

SOUTH CAROLINA

	<u>Number</u>
District farm agents.....	2
District home agents.....	1
County agents.....	19
Home agents.....	16
Emergency agents (men).....	10
Emergency agents (women).....	13
Negro rural population.....	643,737
Negro farm operators.....	61,204
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	45
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	14,287 (1944)

TENNESSEE

	<u>Number</u>
District farm agents.....	1
District home agents.....	1
County agents.....	9
Home agents.....	9
Emergency agents (men).....	4
Emergency agents (women).....	3
Negro rural population.....	226,402
Negro farm operators.....	27,972
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	15
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	14,856 (1944)

TEXAS

	<u>Number</u>
State leader.....	1
District farm agents.....	3
District home agents.....	3
County agents.....	51
Home agents.....	44
Emergency agents (men).....	5
Emergency agents (women).....	6
Negro rural population.....	504,281
Negro farm operators.....	52,648
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	48
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	20,084 (1944)

VIRGINIA

	<u>Number</u>
State agent.....	1
District farm agents.....	1
District home agents.....	1
County agents.....	27
Home agents.....	11
Emergency agents (women).....	7
Negro rural population.....	420,574
Negro farm operators.....	35,062
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	28
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	12,440 (1944)

WEST VIRGINIA

	<u>Number</u>
State leader.....	1
4-H Club agent.....	1
County agents.....	2
Home agents.....	2
Emergency agents (men).....	1
Emergency agents (women).....	8
Negro rural population.....	83,553
Negro farm operators.....	671
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	3,076

SUMMARY

	<u>Number</u>
State agents.....	8
District farm agents.....	16
District home agents.....	15
4-H Club agents.....	7
Specialists.....	2
Movable-school agents.....	2
County agents.....	293
Home agents.....	263
Emergency agents (men).....	76
Emergency agents (women).....	102
County clerks.....	53
Negro rural population.....	6,806,224
Negro farm operators.....	671,586
Counties with 450 or more Negro farmers.....	420
Negro 4-H Club members enrolled.....	277,563

